

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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S E C R E T MAPUTO 027

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, RH, UK

SUBJ: RICHARD-MACHEL TALKS ON RHODESIA

REF: MAPUTO 021

1. SUMMARY: BRITISH AMBASSADOR LEWEN FOUND MACHEL'S RESPONSE TO BRITISH PROPOSALS AS ENCOURAGING AS DID RICHARD. LEWEN SAID THIS WAS MOST POSITIVE MACHEL HAS BEEN TO DATE IN DISCUSSIONS HE HAS PARTICIPATED IN ON RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. MACHEL STRONGLY URGED RICHARD TO CONSULT FULLY WITH ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST LEADERS AS WELL AS WITH FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS. END SUMMARY

2. I MET WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR LEWEN THIS MORNING TO SEE IF HE SHARED RICHARD'S ENTHUSIASM OVER MEETING WITH MACHEL. I WANTED PARTICULARLY TO FIND OUT HOW LEWEN ASSESSED MACHEL'S REACTION IN THIS MEETING COMPARED WITH MACHEL'S REACTION IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS IN WHICH LEWEN HAD PARTICIPATED, WHICH INCLUDED ONE MEETING WITH ROWLAND, ANOTHER WITH ROWLAND/SCHAUFELLE, AND THREE SEPARATE MEETINGS.

3. LEWEN SAID THAT MACHEL WAS MORE POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING YESTERDAY WITH RESPECT TO LATEST PROPOSALS ON RHODESIA THAN AT ANY HIS PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT. ON NO PREVIOUS
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OCCASION HAD MACHEL GONE SO FAR AS HE DID YESTERDAY WHEN HE SAID THAT IF HE WERE A ZIMBABWEAN HE WOULD ACCEPT THE BRITISH PROPOSALS.

4. LEWEN SAID THAT MACHEL SEEMED MOST CONCERNED -- AND ASKED MOST QUESTIONS - ON ISSUE OF CONTROL OF ARMY AND POLICE. MACHEL SEEMED TO HAVE DOUBTS THAT THE MECHANISMS BY WHICH UK HOPES

TO ENSURE CONTROL OF THE ARMY AND POLICE WOULD COMMAND THE COMPLIANCE OF THE RHODESIAN FORCES AND POLITICIANS WHO HAVE BEEN IN REBELLION FOR ELEVEN YEARS. MACHEL QUESTIONED WHETHER THE PRESENCE OF A MERE THREE OR FOUR UK OFFICIALS (THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER AND HEADS OF ARMY, POLICE AND PERHAPS THE AIR FORCE) WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO ENSURE THAT REAL POWER WOULD IN FACT SHIFT FROM THE RHODESIAN FRONT TO THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. THE STRUCTURE PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH LOOKED GOOD ON PAPER, BUT HE WONDERED WHETHER THEY WOULD WORK IN PRACTICE.

5. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF CONTROL OF ARMY AND POLICE, THE MOZAMBICANS ASKED IF THE GUERRILLA LEADERS WOULD BE REPRESENTED ON THE PROPOSED NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. RICHARD REPLIED THAT THIS WAS NOT ENVISAGED, BUT THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN COUNCILS WHICH WOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF INTEGRATION OF MILITARY FORCES. THIS FORMULA APPEARED TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO MACHEL.

6. MACHEL WAS UNHAPPY THAT THERE MIGHT BE A ROLE FOR SMITH IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. FROM PREVIOUS TALKS WITH ROWLAND, HE HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT SMITH WOULD BE LEAVING THE POLITICAL SCENE. HOWEVER, MACHEL DID NOT MAKE SMITH'S EXCLUSION FROM THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT A PRECONDITION FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE BRITISH PROPOSAL.

7. THE ZIMBABWEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND DID NOT COME UP IN YESTERDAY'S DISCUSSION.

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8. MACHEL STRONGLY URGED RICHARD TO CONSULT FULLY WITH THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST LEADERS AS WELL AS WITH THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS. RICHARD SAID THAT THIS WAS HIS INTENTION.

9. IN SUMMING UP, LEWEN SAID HE SHARES RICHARD'S BELIEF THAT MACHEL WILL TAKE THE POSITION AT LUSAKA THAT THE BRITISH PROPOSALS ARE REASONABLE AND SHOULD BE SUPPORTED.

10. DEPARTMENT PASS EDMONDSON.
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